

INFORMATION REPORT

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2. Soviet Military Defense Plans

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Comment: Although the Colonel Hladko quoted below has not been identified, and the circumstances under which he gave his speech are not known, the intelligence information contained in this report is believed to be of sufficient general interest to warrant publication.

The following was contained in a speech given in March 1947 by Colonel Hladko, member of the Soviet Army General Staff and of the All-Union Communist Party.

Theory Concerning US/British Plan of Attack

1. Soviet leaders believe that US and British political and operational plans for attack on the USSR include the following military operations:
  - (a) Action on several fronts, with the main attack through Turkey and Iran, where troop concentrations will cut off Soviet access to oil and Ukrainian food and industrial resources. Every effort will be made to hold the territories guaranteeing free movement along the Mediterranean.
  - (b) Simultaneous engagement of the Chinese masses and launching of a complementary attack from the north. The latter's aim will be to cut the USSR off from the Baltic, take Leningrad and drive to Moscow to meet the southern prong. The Soviet Army consequently will be put in a pocket.
2. The US will strike hard and fast, using all-out tactics to secure a quick break in the Soviet defense. The Americans and British are counting on a short war because they realize the expenditure of time, men and materiel necessary to cover the vast distances in the USSR. Upon successful accomplishment of this plan--and the US and British General Staffs do not doubt this eventually--the Communist Party will be liquidated and a Government established from democratic elements now outside the Soviet Union.
3. Europe will be left to its own fate, but as changes occur on other fronts the European nations' fifth columns will disorganize the Soviet Army's lines of communication and of retreat.
4. Another US/British plan is based on exhaustion of the USSR through a long-drawn-out civil war in China, prolonged by extensive US aid to Chiang Kai-shek in the form of equipment and instructors.

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Soviet Military Defense Plans

5. Preparing defense of the USSR necessitates securing these two main invasion routes:

- (a) The southern route through Baku, Batum and the Don Basin, and
- (b) the Scandinavian and Arctic Route threatened by the US. Strong bases for ice-breakers and specially prepared ships and aircraft are being built. Docks and shops are being constructed at Novy Port on the Ob River, Igarka on the Yenesei, and Tiksi on the Lena. To protect this strategic line further, the USSR desires greater access and facilities in Spitsbergen.

6. Fortifications are being built under the guise of industrial enterprises; the local populations are being deported to the Soviet interior.

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